

percent of those funds for Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan; and no less than twenty-five percent of Southern Caucasus funds for Armenia alone. I also argued that the current ban on assistance to Azerbaijan should remain in place until Azerbaijan takes serious, demonstrable steps to ending their current conflict with Armenia, starting with an end to their own blockade.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues, Representatives JOHN PORTER and FRANK PALLONE, for organizing this special order to commemorate the 84th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Their efforts will not only help to bring needed attention to this tragic period in world history, but also serve as a reminder to remain vigilant in the fight to protect basic human rights and freedoms around the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, Thursday of last week, I returned to my home in Littleton, Colorado to pray for the victims of the shooting at Columbine High School. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the motion to instruct conferees for H.R. 1141, the Supplemental Appropriations Bill (rolcall No. 96).

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS AND WORKFORCE IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a bill to amend the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act. The legislation would simply extend the filing fee exemption fee to all elementary and secondary schools.

The American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act increased the number of H1-B visas available over a series of years. This legislation also called for a \$500 fee to be paid by the employer to file their H1-B visa application. However, this act also contained a provision that exempted institutes of higher education, non-profit research groups, and governmental research institutes from paying the filing fee. The exemption was afforded to these groups to help offset the cost of trying to employ talented workers from abroad.

I represent part of Houston, Texas. Back home my wife is an algebra teacher in Aldine High School. She recently told me of their teacher recruiting efforts. The Aldine Independent School District is much like other district on or near the border. These school districts are constantly searching for talented, experienced teachers for our children. School districts on or near the border will even try to recruit teachers from abroad, who are experi-

enced, bilingual, and who would be a great addition to any school's staff.

The legislation I just introduced would extend the filing fee exemption to all of our schools and will give them the opportunity to recruit the most educated, talented, and experienced teachers for our students. By offsetting the cost of the application, our elementary and secondary schools could look to find the best teachers or specialists, and they could use the \$500 filing fee to provide other education services for our schools.

A TRIBUTE TO ELVA AND JOSEPH RIBAUDO

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special couple Elva and Joseph Ribaud. Elva and Joseph's love for each other, their community, and children exemplify the old-fashioned values this country was founded on. Recently they celebrated a milestone few couples reach. Elva and Joseph Ribaud celebrated fifty years of marriage.

To mark the milestone, a party was recently held in Fresno, California, where over 60 people turned out to honor this wonderful couple. Among the guests were their two beautiful children and their four adorable grandchildren.

In 1952, three years after getting married, the young couple moved into their first house. They still live in that house 47 years later. As this century come to a close they have no plans of moving out of their beloved home. Their devotion to this home, neighborhood, and community is unequalled.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring Elva and Joseph Ribaud. Their steadfast love, their devotion to their community, neighborhood and home and their love of children are qualities every American should strive to duplicate.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ELOY AGUILAR

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great public service career of one San Antonian. Over the past 25 years, Mr. Eloy Aguilar has served the constituents of the 20th district of Texas as district director for my predecessor and father, Henry B. Gonzalez.

Twenty-five years ago, Eloy began his career of service and over the years he has shown great dedication and commitment to the constituents of the 20th district and all the people of San Antonio. There have been countless changes since he began his career in 1974, but the one thing that has not changed is Eloy's dedication. He has devoted many hours, evenings and weekends to the work of the people. Though he had served the community of San Antonio for a quarter of a

century and was ready for retirement, Eloy continued his role as district director for me during the transition from my father's lengthy term through the first months of my own.

In just a few days, Eloy will enter retirement. I take this opportunity to thank him for his tireless service to the constituents of the 20th district and to the Gonzalez family. His presence will be greatly missed. Eloy, we wish you all the best.

GUILLIAN-BARRE SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY, MAY 1, 1999

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share information about Guillian-Barre Syndrome Day on Saturday, May 1, 1999.

"GBS Awareness Day" is an effort to help educate the public and to focus attention on Guillian-Barre Syndrome. GBS is an inflammatory disorder of the peripheral nerves. It is characterized by the rapid onset of weakness and often, paralysis of the legs, arms, breathing muscles, and face. Although most people recover, this can take months, and some have long-term disabilities. It is important to note that GBS can develop in any person at any age, regardless of gender or ethnic background.

Although a great number of cases developed from the 1976 swine flu vaccine, almost 50 percent occur shortly after a viral infection such as a sore throat or diarrhea. This should bring home how susceptible we all are to this baffling disorder which is unpredictable and as of yet, its cause is unknown.

In 1980, in response to the growing number of cases, Robert and Estelle Benson founded the Guillian-Barre Syndrome Foundation International. The foundation has developed 130 chapters to help serve the needs of patients, families, and friends while at the same time raise money to fund medical research. The foundation is proud to have on its medical advisory board some of the world's leading experts on GBS, as well as physicians who themselves have the disorder.

One of GBS Foundation cofounders, Mr. Ralph Neas, has played a vital role in bringing awareness to the community through his work at the local Montgomery County Chapter. It is the mission of those who have been affected by this sometimes devastating disease to assure that everyone is aware of the established support system and to better educate the community on the facts and symptoms of Guillian-Barre Syndrome.

I congratulate the foundation on their efforts and wish them great success in their mission.

IN HONOR OF RICARDO DIAZ AND BOBBI MARSELLS

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to share with my colleagues